

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1394

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PASS DEPT OF LABOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, UK

SUBJECT: UNEMPLOYMENT TREND IN UK CONTINUES TO RISE

1. SUMMARY - THE TREND OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE UK CONTINUED SHARPLY UPWARDS AGAINST THE SEASONAL TREND OVER THE MONTH TO MAY 12 WHILE THE LEVEL OF UNFILLED VACANCIES AGAIN DECLINED ACCORDING TO LATEST STATISTICS ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FIGURE WHICH BEST ILLUSTRATES THIS TREND - THE UNEMPLOYED TOTAL EXCLUDING SCHOOL LEAVERS AND ADULT STUDENTS -- INCREASED BY 11,325 TO 834,509. ON A SEASONALLY ADJUSTED BASIS THIS MEANS AN INCREASE OF 59,200 TO 853,500 OR 3.7 PERCENT OF THE LABOR FORCE. IN GREAT BRITAIN, WHICH EXCLUDES NORTHERN IRELAND, THE TOTAL ROSE BY 10,522 TO 798,809 WHICH, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED, IS AN INCREASE OF 56,800 TO 816,700 OR 3.6 PERCENT.

3. AT THE SAME TIME THE NUMBER OF UNFILLED VACANCIES FOR ADULTS DECREASED BY 9,315 TO 164,104 WHICH, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED, IS A FALL OF 17,700 TO 155,600. IN ADDITION THE DE'S ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER OF WORKERS ON SHORT-TIME WORKING SHOWED AN INCREASE FROM 225,000 IN

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APRIL TO 250,000 THIS MONTH.

4. TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE UK AND GREAT BRITAIN, INCLUDING SCHOOL LEAVERS AND ADULT STUDENTS, ACTUALLY SHOWED A DECREASE OVER THE MONTH BUT THIS WAS MORE THAN ACCOUNTED FOR BY THE REMOVAL FROM THE REGISTER OF STUDENTS WHO HAD REGISTERED AS UNEMPLOYED DURING THE EASTER VACATION IN ORDER TO CLAIM BENEFITS. THE UK TOTAL DECREASED BY 89,521 TO 850,346 OR 3.7 PERCENT AND THE GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL BY 86,661 TO 813,068 OR 3.6 PERCENT. THE NUMBER OF ADULT STUDENTS ON THE REGISTER FELL BY 91,530 TO NIL AND THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED SCHOOL LEAVERS BY 5,653 TO 14,259.

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